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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's repeated attacks on southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the local inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in the first half of June 1996.

2 June 1996

At 0800 hours an Israeli gunboat intercepted a number of fishermen off Qulaylah, Tyre, and opened fire on them with a view to intimidating them. It rammed a fishing boat with three civilians on board, causing serious damage to the boat.

6 June 1996

At 1910 hours the outskirts of Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', Kafr Fila and Wadi Kafra came under artillery fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

7 June 1996

At 0530 hours the outskirts of Arabsalim, Mlita and Jabal Safi and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

10 June 1996

Outlying areas of towns in the Nabatiyah and Bint Jubayl areas came under artillery fire.

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At 0830 hours, in the Israeli shelling of towns in the Nabatiyah area, Sergeant Nash'at Ali Mahmud of the Lebanese Army was killed and Ali Nasib Farahat was wounded while they were driving in the latter's car on the Habbush-Arabsalim highway. The car was badly damaged. The home of Kamil Abd al-Husayn Muruwwah was also damaged in the shelling.

At 1500 hours the outskirts of Frun, Ghanduriyah and Qabrikha came under Israeli artillery fire.

11 June 1996

At 2145 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitude.

12 June 1996

At 1205 hours the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under machine-gun fire from Israeli positions in the hills opposite. Flares were then fired. Israeli helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude.

At 0705 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude and carried out mock attacks.

13 June 1996

At 1630 hours the outskirts of Luwayzah, Mlikh, Ayn Bu Siwar and Arabsalim and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by low-altitude overflights of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area by Israeli warplanes.

15 June 1996

An explosive charge was detonated on a dirt road in the town of Hula, killing three children. They were: Hamamah Ahmad Ali Husayn; Taghrid Sami Qatish; and Muhammad Talal Jawad. Israeli forces also imposed a security blockade on the location.

16 June 1996

At 1025 hours an artillery shell fired from an Israeli gun fell in the outskirts of Jun in the Shuf district.

Israel's persistent refusal to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and its continued occupation of Lebanese territory are perpetuating the cycle of violence and causing increased casualties among local inhabitants, particularly children and women. The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation, the fresh attacks and the arbitrary practices against the Lebanese population, which have caused further deaths and injuries and have inflicted further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative